



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday, April 05, 2007

Electricity

Spring Snow Storm Knocks Out Power to About 175,000 Customers in Upper Northeast April 4

A heavy, wet snowstorm hit the upper Northeast on April 4, bringing down trees, limbs, and power lines. The storm knocked out power to almost 95,000 customers in Maine and over 80,000 customers in New Hampshire at its peak. Central Maine Power Co. reported that it has more than 240 line crew and support personnel working in the field and has contacted area utilities for assistance. It is still assessing the damage and estimates that it will likely take several days to repair. It warned customers to stay away from downed power lines as they should be considered live and dangerous. Public Service Co. of New Hampshire reported that utility crews worked through Wednesday night and into Thursday trying to restore power. In addition, fifty line crews are headed to New Hampshire from a neighboring state, Connecticut, to help. The company could not estimate when power would be restored because damage is so widespread.

http://www.maineoastnow.com/articles/2007/04/05/camden_herald/local_news/doc46151d802bff5581385299.txt

<http://www.wmur.com/weather/11533754/detail.html?rss=man&psp=news>

<http://news.bostonherald.com/national/northeast/view.bg?articleid=192987>

<http://www.wcax.com/global/story.asp?s=6329201>

<http://www.auburnpub.com/articles/2007/04/05/ap/headlines/d8oagrv80.txt>

FERC Approves ColumbiaGrid's Proposal to Coordinate Grid Planning, Expansion in Pacific Northwest

The U.S. Federal Regulatory Commission (FERC) has approved ColumbiaGrid's proposal to coordinate transmission planning and expansion in the Pacific Northwest, which will strengthen regional grid planning. In its order, FERC said, "the increased coordination and transparency contemplated by the Planning Agreement have the potential to improve reliability, operational efficiency, and expansion of the transmission grid." The agreement also includes conducting annual assessments of members' transmission systems, drafting and approving biennial transmission plans, convening study teams to assess requests for transmission service and coordinating planning of multi-system projects.

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6371691.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

TXU May Be Forced to Shut Down Power Plants

Texas Utility Corp. (TXU) could be forced to shut down some of its power plants if it fails to settle charges that it manipulated the state wholesale electricity market. Last week, the Texas Public Utility Commission proposed a \$210 million penalty against TXU over charges that it sold power at inflated prices during the summer of 2005. TXU is disputing the charges and claims that it needs to charge prices that cover the short-term cost of fuel and expense of maintaining seldom-used plants. The dispute has the potential to create a great disruption in the wholesale market if not corrected, said a chief executive of TXU's power-generation division.

http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070405/txu_investigation.html?v=1

More than 42,000 Customers without Power in Kentucky April 3

Heavy thunderstorms with winds gusting to 68 mph hit Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee, causing power outage to more than 42,000 customers in Kentucky.

<http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-severe-weather,0,2279376.story?coll=sns-ap-nationworld-headlines>

Ameren, UniStar Take First Steps for Nuclear License

Bloomberg News, 11:46 April 5, 2007

FPL's 592 MW Duane Arnold Nuke Unit in Iowa Ramps up to 20 Percent Power April 5

The unit was shut for two days due to electrical problems.

Bloomberg News, 11:28 April 5, 2007

OPG's 490 MW Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 3 in Ontario Returns to Service April 5

The unit shut on March 29.

Reuters, 11:28 April 5, 2007

OPG's 490 MW Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 5 in Ontario Shuts April 5

The unit shut for short work.

Reuters, 11:28 April 5, 2007

TXU's 750 MW Martin Lake Coal-fired Unit 2 in Texas Returns to Service April 5

Reuters, 17:42 April 4, 2007

Entergy's 1,025 MW Indian Point Nuke Unit 3 in New York Ramped up to 20 Percent April 4

Reuters, 17:42 April 4, 2007

Petroleum

U.S. DOE Rejects All Bids from Companies to Sell Oil to Strategic Petroleum Reserve

On April 4, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that it has rejected the bids because the bids were too high and "not a reasonable value for taxpayers." DOE will issue another request for bids in mid-April to replace 11 million barrels of oil it sold after Hurricane Katrina in the fall of 2005. DOE said the upcoming solicitations "will be staggered so as not to substantially affect the market price." Bids will be accepted based on fair market value, and combinations of sweet and sour crude will be purchased based on price.

U.S. Department of Energy

ExxonMobil Shuts Coker Gas Plant at 349,000 bpd Beaumont Refinery in Texas April 4

The unit was shut to fix a "frac absorber bottoms leak." The company said that production at the refinery was not affected. The company expects repairs to be completed by Friday.

Reuters, 07:57 April 5, 2007

Motiva has Problems restarting FCC Unit at 285,000 bpd Port Arthur Refinery in Texas April 5

Motiva tried to restart a gasoline-making fluid catalytic cracking unit today, but had problems. The unit should be restarted by the weekend.

Reuters, 09:41 April 5, 2007

Lyondell to Take FCC Unit Down at Houston Refinery

The company reported today that it would need to take the 100,000 bpd unit down for about seven to ten days to make some minor adjustments to equipment.

Reuters, 12:00 April 5, 2007

Bomb Strikes Oil Pipeline in Southern Iraq, Cuts Off Supplies – Exports Not Affected

Around midnight on April 5, a bomb struck a pipeline that carries oil from southern Iraq to storage tanks in Basra for export to the Gulf region. The attack occurred just north of Safwan near the border with Kuwait, and the fire has been contaminated. The tanks are full and export supplies have not yet been affected.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070405/ap_on_re_mi_ea/iraq_oil_2;_ylt=AujAHjuqVQgWhXRfQ8yBimGAsnsA

OPEC Exports Rising in April 21

Exports from OPEC, from March 25 to April 21 will rise 390,000 bpd over the previous four week period according to an oil analyst quoted by Reuters.

Reuters, 11:30 April 5, 2007

Natural Gas

FERC Chairperson Cites Problems in Southern Texas LNG Terminal's Application

FERC's chairman Joseph Kelliher said there were problems related to Calhoun LNG terminal's failure to participate in FERC's pre-filing process.

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

FERC Approves CenterPoint Energy to Begin Service at Pipeline Phase 1 in Texas, Louisiana

FERC approved CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission to begin service at Phase 1 of its pipeline that extends from the Carthage Hub in East Texas to the Perryville Hub in northeast Louisiana. This line will provide a market outlet for burgeoning natural gas production in North-Central and East Texas and North Louisiana.

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Pioneer Ramps up Production at New Gas Field in Northern Alberta

The new natural gas field in northern Alberta is producing 18 MMcf/d from three wells and is expected to reach output of 24 MMcf/d in the next week.

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Hearing to Begin on BHP Billiton's LNG Terminal Project in Southern California

A state and federal environmental impact hearing on the proposed LNG terminal site off of the Southern California coast begins on Wednesday to decide the future of the \$550 million, 800 MMcf/d project.

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Norwegian Company Files Applications to Build, Operate Deepwater Natural Gas Port in Florida

Port Dolphin Energy LLC has submitted applications to build and operate a deepwater natural gas port in Florida's west coast.

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Leor Energy's East Texas Field Producing 200 MMcf/d

This is one of the top five largest onshore discoveries in the U.S. in the past decade.

BSW, 13:38 April 5, 2007

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices April 5, 2007			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	64.08	66.04	55.96
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	7.53	7.34	7.44

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Canadian Defense Reports Highlight Terrorist Threat to Oil Refineries

<http://www.canada.com/vancouver/news/story.html?id=5168f265-68da-43e9-a1a9-31106c18a3ef&k=72293>

Propane Leak Prompts Evacuation in Ottawa County at South Bass Island, Lake Erie April 3

<http://www.wtol.com/Global/story.asp?S=6323228>

Liquid Oxygen Leak Prompts Evacuation in Farmington, New Mexico April 2

http://daily-times.com/news/ci_5580342

Rosneft Completes New Black Sea Fuel Oil Export Terminal

Reuters, 10:00 April 5, 2007

BP's Baku-Ceyhan Pipeline Reaches Million bpd Capacity

Reuters, 11:08 April 5, 2007

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/index.aspx>.

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov